

OPINION 1580

***Cordylodus? dubius* Rhodes, 1953 (currently *Distomodus dubius*; Conodonta): specific name conserved**

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the specific name *spinosum* Harley, 1861, as published in the binomen *Astacoderma spinosum*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The name *dubius* Rhodes 1953, as published in the binomen *Cordylodus dubius* (as *Cordylodus? dubius*), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *spinosum* Harley, 1861, as published in the binomen *Astacoderma spinosum* and as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2308

An application for the conservation of *Cordylodus? dubius* Rhodes, 1953 was received from Drs L. Jeppsson (*Lunds Universitet, Sweden*) & R.J. Aldridge (*University of Nottingham, England, U.K.*) on 14 June 1979. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 45: 127–129 (June 1988). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. No comments were received.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1989 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 45: 128. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1989 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 23: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mroczkowski, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 5: Dupuis, Holthuis, Kabata, Lehtinen and Minelli.

Holthuis considered that as the nominal species *Astacoderma spinosum* had a holotype and as this name was almost 100 years older than *Cordylodus? dubius* there was no good reason not to follow priority. However, as pointed out by the authors (BZN 45: 127, para. 1), the species is quite common and geographically widespread. The paucity of references prior to Rhodes (1953) reflects the lack of appreciation until recent times of the nature and stratigraphic significance of conodonts. Dupuis would have favoured giving *dubius* precedence over *spinosum*, since the synonymy is subjective. Kabata did not think the case for overturning priority was strong enough.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

dubius, *Cordylodus?*, Rhodes, 1953, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, (B)237: 299.

spinosum, *Astacoderma*, Harley, 1861, *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London*, 17: 550.